

APPROVED: Meeting No. 19-91

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 14-91

April 24, 1991

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the City Manager's Conference Room, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on April 24, 1991, at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepien

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, Assistant City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with Economic
Development Council

Howard Groedel, Chairperson, and EDC members Robert Bender, Craig Falk, James Farrell, Helen Hillstrom and Harriet Margolis discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

EDC Review of Economic Development Plan

Councilmember Coyle emphasized the impact this Plan will have on the City's Master Plan and that it should be reviewed very closely.

New Business Marketing Brochure for City

In light of the new Economic Development Plan, this would be an ideal time to develop a new business market brochure for the City. In addition to the brochure, other

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mediums, such as videos shown on the City's cable channel, could be used to attract new business to Rockville.

Small Business Development

The MIT Enterprise Forums sponsored by the EDC in conjunction with the Montgomery County High Technology Council continue to reach a large number of high tech businesses. The EDC will also sponsor Rockville small business forums along with the Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery College and the County Office of Economic Development.

With respect to the Small Business Roundtable, an expanded list of invitees has been recommended as well as a varying format for the meetings. It was agreed that the Small Business Roundtables would continue to be held in the mornings but that there would be an evening reception in the form of a Mix and Mingle to kick off the new format. Mayor Duncan suggested that the entire membership of the EDC, rather than just the Chairperson, attend the roundtable meetings.

The EDC was encouraged to provide the Mayor and Council with any recommendations they may have for improving downtown Rockville. Carey Winston Company will be taking over management of the Metro Center, and Mayor Duncan suggested that the EDC may want to be involved in the City's meeting with this company's representatives.

Future Directions

Councilmember Coyle mentioned that there has been little effort to attract industry to the City, and this may be an area for future study. The ethnic diversity of the City was discussed and the need to broaden the EDC's reach by recruiting members from other ethnic groups.

Re: Worksession with Science and
Technology Commission

Commission members Michael Weickert, Dominick Iacuzio, Kathleen Joyce and Carie Schaffer discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

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Television Exposure for Commission

The Commission desires to air on Cable 53 informative short pieces in the science areas. Mayor Duncan advised the Commission that they should submit a budget request for any costs this may entail.

Rockville Reports Articles

Issues such as the gypsy moth program and wetlands mitigation are extremely informative, and the Commission would like to assist in providing more of these types of articles in the City newsletter. Mayor Duncan requested that the Commission review the wetlands mitigation and Cabin John Lake issues and provide the Mayor and Council with their comments. It was also noted that there are a number of informative articles circulated by the City to the various civic associations for inclusion in their local newsletters.

Science Center

The Commission has visited Prince George's Science Center and has discussed with Rockville Consortium for Science their plans for a Science Center. The Rockville Science Center can be small and community-organized. Finding an affordable downtown location was cited as a major obstacle. Mayor Duncan mentioned that perhaps an activity center such as Rockville Arts Place with developer contributions is possible.

Activities planned by the Commission for Science Day on April 28 were discussed.

Selection of Commission Members and Qualification

The Commission's draft setting forth criteria for Commission membership was shared with the Mayor and Council. Once a final document has been approved by the Commission, it will be transmitted to the Mayor and Council.

Meeting with City Department Directors

Commission members expressed a desire to assist departments in matters

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involving the scientific disciplines. The City Manager noted that he would be happy to schedule a meeting for the Commission members with the department directors.

Budget Needs

A small amount of money to cover incidentals such as the door prizes for Science Day was requested by the Commission. The Commission will forward to the Mayor and Council a letter outlining their budget request.

Re: Worksession with Housing
Authority Board of
Commissioners

The Mayor and Council discussed the following items with Ardell Hilliard, Chairperson, and Sandra Crewe, Executive Director:

Management Issues

- o Operating Budget. The rent revenues are in line with projected figures, and the Authority continues to struggle for self-sufficiency. Because the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines give priority to individuals paying over 50% for housing, most of the tenants are at the lowest income levels.

- o Drug Elimination Activities. A new drug and alcohol prevention specialist is on staff and has been doing an excellent job. He has targeted 16-19 year olds as a major concern for this summer.

- o Capital Improvements Program. There are a number of special projects such as upgrading heating systems.

Development Activities

- o Park Terrace. It has been over 18 months since the Housing Authority submitted its application, and a decision has not yet been forthcoming from HUD.

- o Section 8 Vouchers. Although the Authority has applied to HUD for more vouchers, a response has not yet been received.

- o AWOR-Scattered Site Units. Rockville Housing Authority is approved for 18

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units, and approximately 10 more sites could be added upon HUD approval of price. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of using scattered sites as turnkey projects. Councilmember Hovsepian indicated that use of the City's Housing Fund for such a project could be explored.

o Single Room Occupancy (SRO). Volunteers are working on the Community Ministries' site which is projected to be completed and ready for occupancy in June or July.

PILOT - Turnkey III Program

Twelve of 15 units have been sold, and there have been no defaults.

Report from Resident Association

There is a strong resident association in place which has been very active. Some of the projects they have undertaken are rent relief and lawnmowing and landscaping. A very successful computer and typing program has been initiated, and the Mayor and Council were advised that equipment and supplies are needed to increase the service capabilities.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on April 29, 1991, or at the call of the Mayor.